Amendments to the Claims:

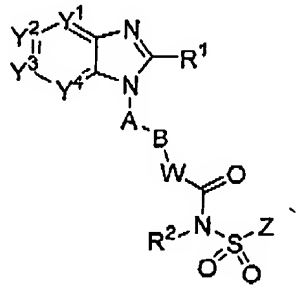
Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

Claims 13-25 (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended~~New~~) A method for the treatment of a disorder or condition ~~mediated by an EP4 receptor~~ in a mammalian subject including a human, wherein the disorder or condition is selected from pain, inflammation, an inflammation associated disorder, osteoarthritis, and rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of the following formula:



(I)

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

R^1 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-8} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-8} alkoxy, C_{1-8} alkyl-S(O)m-, Q^1-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-8} alkyl)amino, C_{1-4}alkyl-C(=O)-N(R^3)- or C_{1-4}alkyl-S(O)m-N(R^3)-, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl

and C_{2-8} alkynyl are optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy-, C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtyl, 1,2-dihydronaphtyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, Q^1-C(=O)-, Q^1-O-, Q^1-S(O)m-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-S(O)m-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(R^3)-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-N(R^3)- or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(R^3)-;

Q^1 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

A is a 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, acetyl, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- and $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

B is halo-substituted C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{3-7} cycloalkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene, C_{2-6} alkynylene, -O-C_{1-5} alkylene, C_{1-2} alkylene-O-C_{1-2} alkylene or C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-4} alkyl, O, S, N-OR^5 or a covalent bond;

R^2 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, OH or C_{1-4} alkoxy;

Z is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, ~~C1~~C2-4 alkenyl, ~~C1~~C2-4 alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylC(=O)-, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $NH_2(HN=)C$-, Q^2-S(O)m-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-$N(R^3)$- or Q^2- ;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4}alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $NH_2(HN=)C$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl ;

R^5 is H, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl-(O=)C- or C_{1-4} alkyl-O-(O=)C- ; and

Q^2 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring, or a 5-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C1-4 alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-}

4alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4}alkyl- (O=)C-, $R^3(R^4)C(=O)N$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl-C(=O)NH- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 28, wherein

one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, and Y^4 is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

R^1 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-8} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-8} alkoxy, C_{1-8} alkyl-S(O)m-, Q^1-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-8} alkyl)amino, C_{1-4}alkyl-C(=O)-N(R^3)- or C_{1-4}alkyl-S(O)m-N(R^3)-, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl and C_{2-8} alkynyl are optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy-, C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtyl, 1,2-dihydronaphtyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, Q^1-C(=O)-, Q^1-O-, Q^1-S(O)m-, Q^1-C_{1-4} alkyl-O-, Q^1-C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, Q^1-C_{1-4}alkyl-C(=O)-N(R^3)-, or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(=O)-N(R^3)-;

Q^1 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl , hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O)C-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

A is a 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from O, N, and S, wherein said 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with up to 2 substituents selected from halo,

C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy and halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy;

B is C_{3-7} cycloalkylene or C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-4} alkyl, O or N-OH;

R^2 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

Z is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4} alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylC(=O)-, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{1-4} alkyl-C(=O)NH-, Q^2-S(O)m-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-N(R^3)- or Q^2-;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl , hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl; and

Q^2 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring, or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{2-4}

alkynyl, hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} alkylthio, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkyl-(O=)C-, $R^3(R^4)C(=O)N$-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or C_{1-4} alkyl-C(=O)NH-.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 29, wherein

one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3, and Y^4 is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

R^1 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, Q^1-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-(C_{1-8} alkyl)amino, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy-, C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, Q^1-C(O)-, Q^1-O-, Q^1-S-, Q^1-C_{1-4} alkyl-O-, or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(R^3)-;

Q^1 is a 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl and C_{1-4} alkylC(=O)-;

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} alkoxy;

B is C_{3-7} cycloalkylene or C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-4} alkyl, O or N-OH;

R^2 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-

substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, Q^2- S(O)m-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-$N(R^3)$- or Q^2-;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl , hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, mono- or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl; and

Q^2 is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring, or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 30, wherein

one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

R^1 is H, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} alkynyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-8} alkyl is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_{1-4} alkoxy-, C_{1-4} alkyl-S(O)m-, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, Q^1-C(=O)-, Q^1-O-, Q^1-S-, Q^1-C_{1-4} alkyl-O-, or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-$N(R^3)$-;

Q^1 is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N and S;

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system optionally substituted with halo or C_{1-4} alkyl;

B is C_{3-7} cycloalkylene or C_{1-6} alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-4} alkyl, O or N-OH;

R^2 is H or C_{1-4} alkyl;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{2-4} alkenyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, Q^2-S(O)m-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-N(R^3)- or Q^2-;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl , hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, C_{1-4} alkylC(=O), HO(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkyl-O(O=)C-, C_{1-4} alkylsulfonylamino, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)NR^4$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, Q^2-O-, Q^2-C_{1-4}alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl; and

Q^2 is 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing 1 sulfur atom wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 31, wherein

one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

R^1 is C_{1-5} alkyl or C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-5} alkyl is optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, Q^1-, or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(H)-;

Q^1 is 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system optionally containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from N and S,

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system;

B is C_{1-3} alkylene optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl;

W is NH, N-C_{1-2} alkyl or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, nitro, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or Q^2-;

L is halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkyl , hydroxy, C_{1-4} alkoxy, halo-substituted C_{1-4} alkoxy, cyano, HO-C_{1-4} alkyl, acetyl, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, Q^2-, Q^2-C(=O)-, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl; and

Q^2 is 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 32, wherein

one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

R^1 is C_{1-5} alkyl optionally substituted with C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring, wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from N and S, or C_{1-4}alkyl-C(O)-N(R^3)-;

A is phenyl;

B is C_{1-2} alkylene optionally substituted with methyl;

W is NH, N-CH_3 or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is 5-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-10 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with chloro, bromo, methyl, nitro, $CH_3C(=O)NH$-, tBuC(=O)NH- or phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, ~~trifluoromethyl~~ trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, ~~trifluoro~~trifluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 33, wherein

one of Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

R^1 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-CH_3 or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, ~~trifluoromethyl~~ trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, ~~trifluoro~~trifluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

35. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 34, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are selected from the group consisting of

a) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), Y^2 is CH and Y^4 is N;

b) Y^1 is CH, Y^2 and Y^3 are C(L) and Y^4 is N;

c) Y^1, Y^2 and Y^3 are C(L) and Y^4 is N;

d) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), Y^2 is N and Y^4 is CH;

e) Y^1 and Y^2 are CH, Y^3 is C(L) and Y^4 is N;

f) Y^1 and Y^3 are CH, Y^2 is C(L) and Y^4 is N;

g) Y^1 and Y^2 are C(L), Y^3 is CH and Y^4 is N;

h) Y^1 and Y^2 are C(L), Y^3 is N and Y^4 is CH;

i) Y^1 is C(L), Y^2 and Y^3 are CH, and Y^4 is N; and

j) Y^2 is C(L), Y^1 and Y^3 are CH, and Y^4 is N;

R^1 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-CH_3 or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 35, wherein

Y^1, Y^2, Y^3 and Y^4 are selected from the group consisting of

a) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), Y^2 is CH and Y^4 is N;

b) Y^1 is CH, Y^2 and Y^3 are C(L) and Y^4 is N;

c) Y^1, Y^2 and Y^3 are C(L) and Y^4 is N; and

d) Y^1 and Y^3 are C(L), Y^2 is N and Y^4 is CH;

R^1 is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-CH_3 or O;

R^2 is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 28 wherein the compound is selected from

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-1,3-dimethyl-1h-pyrazol-4-yl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl} phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2,4-dimethyl-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

N-[5-({[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]amino}sulfonyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]acetamide;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[methyl({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]propyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-1-methylethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-propyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-isopropyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-butyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-isobutyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-neopentyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)ethyl]-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[(4-biphenylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-{4-[2-({[(1-naphthylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-{4-[2-({[(2-naphthylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(4,5-dichloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[(1-benzothien-2-ylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,6-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5,6-dichloro-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5-chloro-2-ethyl-7-methyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

6-cyano-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-3-{4-[2-({[({3-[hydroxy(oxido)amino]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

n-[4-({[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]amino}sulfonyl)phenyl]-2,2-dimethylpropanamide;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-bromo-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-bromophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[({4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl}sulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

2-[4-(4,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-[4-(2-butyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[4,6-dimethyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-{4-[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate; and

salts thereof.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 28 wherein the compound is selected from

2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-1-methylethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)ethyl]-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,6-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5,6-dichloro-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl} phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

2-[4-(4,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-[4-(2-butyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[4,6-dimethyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

N-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-{4-[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate; and

salts thereof.

39. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the compound is

2-~~ethyl~~Ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methyphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}~~carboxyl~~carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-~~c~~c}pyridine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.